

ENGLAND'S PREPARATIONS.

The Government Aroused to the Necessity of Action.

LONDON, July 28.—A special Cabinet meeting was summoned in Downing street this afternoon. There was a full attendance, and France's demand on Siam was discussed at length and eventually instructions for the Marquis of Dufferin, the British Ambassador to France, were formulated and approved.

Immediately after the meeting Lord Rosebery, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, communicated with the admiralty in regard to the disposition of the fleet in Asiatic waters. Late in the afternoon special orders were dispatched by the admiralty to Vice Admiral Fremantle, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese division. These facts, together with the sudden cancelling of Dufferin's leave of absence, are regarded as hardly in harmony with official predictions of a perfectly amicable settlement with France of the Siamese difficulty. Even if not alarmed by the course of France, the Government is believed to realize that the Siamese affairs are fraught with serious possibilities for which immediate preparation must be made by Great Britain.

France's decision to blockade the whole coast of Siam in the event of war is badly received in England. The blockade would be entirely at England's expense. Not a single French steamship is to be allowed to call at Hongkong or Singapore. The British and Chinese merchants at Singapore and Hongkong will be the sufferers.

MISSILES FROM THE SKY.

A Report Like Thunder Followed by a Fall of Aerolites.

On May 26 a meteoric stone exploded, the fragments falling along Beaver Creek, about ten miles above its junction with the Columbian River. At 4 p. m. on that day there occurred fifteen or twenty sharp reports following each other in quick succession. The first report was the loudest, but all were clear and distinct. The noise was heard nearly twenty-five miles away. A party of engineers surveying on the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway were working in the vicinity. At first they thought the noise was thunder or a railroad blast, but there was no blasting within six or seven miles, and the noise was unlike either thunder or blast. Following the reports a whizzing sound was heard as if made by some body moving swiftly through the air. They were working in thick, heavy timber, and, therefore, could see nothing, and no fragments fell close enough to be heard strike the ground.

At the time of the explosion J. W. Gerling was walking along the trail up Beaver Creek. He heard it, but at first supposed it to be thunder. A few moments later he heard the whizzing sound above mentioned, and as he looked up to see whence it came, it grew louder and louder, until a stone struck the ground not far from where he was standing. He searched for it, but the bushes were so thick he could not find it, and the fragment evidently was small. Ed. McLeod, who is building the "tote" road for contractors Peter Larson & Co., says that the report seemed to come out of the sky almost directly above the place he was working. A fragment fell within fifty feet of him, and although it buried itself in the earth, he succeeded in digging it out. The specimen would weigh four or five pounds. One or two other fragments were observed to fall, and two laborers were nearly struck.

On the following day James Hislop, of the engineer corps was taking topography near where Ed. McLeod found his specimen, and while so doing came upon a hole in the earth about the size of a badger hole, and evidently freshly made, as loose earth had fallen back in it. The hole was about at an angle of sixty or seventy degrees. Together with E. L. McNair and Otto Austin, also of the engineer corps, they made an excavation, and at a depth of about three feet came upon a rock weighing about twenty-five pounds, which was exactly similar to the piece found by Ed. McLeod. It was taken to camp and is now in Mr. Hislop's possession. Other fragments, and probably larger ones, fell, but as they scattered three or four miles apart, and the country is mountainous and thickly timbered, there is little chance that any more will be found.—Spokane Review.

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A trial is solicited. Lowest Prices Prevail.

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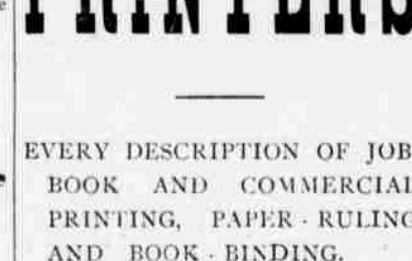


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